



State of Illinois
Rod R. Blagojevich, Governor
Department of Human Services
Carol L. Adams, Ph.D., Secretary



SERVE Illinois

N E W S L E T T E R

A Prevention First publication

April 2006

Lieutenant Governor Pat Quinn Honors Cesar Chavez *Serve & Learn Program Breakfast Held March 30, 2006*



Chavez's grandson, Cesar L. Chavez, spoke to the crowd.

Cesar Chavez was a labor leader who dedicated his life to improving the standard of living, wages, and working conditions of farm workers. Chavez's core values of service learning – including service to others, sacrifice, celebrating community, and a preference to help the most needy – were the focus of the Cesar Chavez Serve & Learn Program Breakfast held March 30, 2006, at McKinley Elementary School in Chicago.

Lt. Gov. Pat Quinn attended the program and spoke to the students, teachers and guests about Cesar Chavez's core values and the importance of focusing on giving back to the community. Chavez's grandson, Cesar L. Chavez, also spoke.

Cesar Chavez once said, *"We cannot seek achievement for ourselves and forget about progress and prosperity for our community . . . our ambitions must be broad enough to include the aspirations and needs of*

others, for their sakes and for our own."

Scott Kimmel, Executive Director of the Illinois Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service (ICVCS), attended the program on behalf of the Commission and was able to participate in the coming together of youth to serve a purpose. Brenda Letcher, Program Officer for Illinois' Community-Based Learn and Serve grant and a staff member of the Commission, was given special thanks for her role in supporting Illinois' service learning initiative. For more about the service learning philosophy and programs, see www.servicelearning.org.



Lt. Gov. Pat Quinn participated in the Serve & Learn program honoring Cesar Chavez.

Want volunteer information? Go to www.illinois.gov/volunteer

Message *from the* Secretary

Many families in central Illinois were hit hard by tornadoes and high winds that swept through the area March 12 and April 3. More than 1,000 homes were structurally damaged, and 5,000 residents were without electricity for nearly a week. Governor Rod Blagojevich declared a disaster area for several counties in central Illinois, as did President George Bush. Funding for disaster assistance and repair is now available to residents in these target communities.



Community organizations and volunteers have rallied to help. Shelters and mass-meal operations were quickly up and running to assist people with food, clothing and housing needs. Churches and religious congregations have expanded outreach and services. Volunteers are helping clean-up crews working in affected neighborhoods, and throughout Illinois, compassionate citizens are asking, "What can we do to help?"

Funds are needed for direct relief, support, and administration of services for people affected by the storms. Small donations of \$1, \$5, and \$10 to community and faith-based organizations are significant and would help these organizations greatly. We encourage the readership of the *Serve Illinois* newsletter to support the organization of your choice by making a financial donation, a donation of supplies, or perhaps even more valuable, a gift of your own time as a temporary or regular volunteer.

Let's put our "many hands" together to bring relief to communities like Springfield and adjacent communities. Let's restore hope to our neighbors and friends throughout Illinois who sorely need our help.

The focus of this newsletter is volunteerism. Articles and stories herein are important reminders of what we can do if we work together. A phrase comes to mind, once spoken by a man for whom we have recently celebrated – Cesar Chavez – "Si, Se Puede! / Yes, We Can!"

Sincerely,

Carol L. Adams, Ph.D., Secretary
Illinois Department of Human Services

Message *from the* Chair

Hello again, and thank you for reading this edition of *Serve Illinois*. We at the Illinois Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service (ICVCS) are excited about what we are doing – both administratively and programmatically. In late February, Deborah McCarrel joined the staff of the Illinois Department of Human Services as AmeriCorps Program Manager. Deb brings many years of managerial and state government experience to the ICVCS, and we are glad to have her on the team. Deb's bio is on page 7 of this newsletter. Welcome, Deb!



We were also very saddened to learn of the recent passing of a longtime ICVCS Commissioner, Mr. Frank Sorenson of Macomb. Frank was a tireless advocate of volunteerism and community service for many years. We send our thoughts and prayers to his family and friends during this difficult time. A brief article with more about Frank's life and service is on page 7, as well.

This month I want to highlight the activities of some of our AmeriCorps*State programs over the last grant year.

AmeriCorps Community Enrichment Program (Springfield) Members helped put together a Health Fair for young ladies and distributed health education literature to those in attendance.

Project YES (Chicago) Report cards show that approximately 91% of students who work with Project YES members increase their level of understanding in their curriculum.

Safe Families AmeriCorps Program (Chicago) Volunteers participated in service projects for HIV/AIDS programs, including making HIV/AIDS bracelets and ribbons.

Peace Corps/AmeriCorps Project (Macomb) Fellows at the Western Illinois University program have assisted in establishing a nonprofit community organization to address economic development, as well as the development of a heart disease prevention curriculum to be used in rural hospitals across the state.

AmeriCorps Benefits the Community (Dixon) ABC AmeriCorps members of Sauk Valley Community College have helped get an on-site child care program for teen parents up and running and have also started a computer tutoring program for seniors.

Congratulations to the members and supervisors of these programs for a job well done! Often, these good deeds go unnoticed and are sometimes even unappreciated. In our role to foster and enhance volunteerism and community service, and on behalf of the entire Commission and staff, I say "thank you" to those who contribute so much to these programs and to the citizens of Illinois.

With much admiration,

Dave Lawrence, Chair
Illinois Commission on Volunteerism and Community Services

Jefferson Awards Honor Unsung Heroes: Marbly Receives 2005 Award



U.S. Sen. Barack Obama presents the Jefferson Award to Corwin B. Marbly Sr. of Chicago

In 1972, a "Nobel Prize" for public and community service was created to encourage and honor individuals for their achievements and contributions through public and community service. Today those prizes, called the Jefferson Awards, are administered by the American Institute for Public Service and are presented on national and local levels. National award recipients represent

a "who's who" of outstanding Americans. On the local level, **Jefferson Award recipients are ordinary people who do extraordinary things without expectation of recognition or reward.**

Representing Illinois at the annual awards dinner for 2005 was Corwin B. Marbly Sr. of Chicago. Nominated by WMAQ-TV, Mr. Marbly was recognized for his outstanding commitment to community betterment. In particular, he has demonstrated unwavering service to public housing residents, as well as to those who live in senior public housing.

Mr. Marbly served in the U.S. Navy and had a long career with the U.S. Postal Service in Chicago. He successfully secured loans and grants for repairs to improve the conditions in his neighborhood and church. He was also able to get protection for women who work late in the neighborhood, and he helped open a Head Start day care program to assist mothers who need proper child care while they work. Mr. Marbly created "Project Hope," which offers field trips and birthday and holiday parties for underprivileged youth.

Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, U.S. Sen. Robert Taft Jr. and Sam Beard founded the American Institute for Public Service, a nonprofit public foundation. For more information, visit its Web site at www.jeffersonawards.org.

Community Resource Network of Chicago's Volunteer E-Recognition Awards program recently announced its recipients. Each volunteer, organization, and story will be featured throughout the month of April in recognition of National Volunteer Week on the CRN Web site, www.chicagovolunteer.net.

1st Cheryl Arnemann – Family Matters

2nd Arenge Dixon – Greater Chicago Food Depository

3rd Ewa Hu – Korean American Women in Need

The mission of the Illinois Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service is to improve Illinois communities by supporting and enhancing volunteerism and community service.

Commissioners, appointed by the governor, represent experience in local government, labor, education, older adults, public health, nonprofits, business, volunteerism and national service.



COMMISSION MEMBERS

(Web address - www.illinois.gov/volunteer)

Dave Lawrence, Chair, Savoy
Jill Alfnejd, Gurnee
Daniel F. Bassill, Park Ridge
William Braden, Glenview
Phillip J. Cline, Chicago
Randy Dunn, Chicago
Laura Eilts, Chicago
Walter E. Grady, Crete
Howard L. Lathan, Chicago
Anne-Michele McMahon, Park Ridge
Dorothy Miaso, Chicago
Mayor Arlene J. Mulder, Arlington Heights
Kathy Havens Payne, Bloomington
Kelly Reffett, LaSalle
Frederick Rodriguez, Ph.D., Western Springs
Frank D. Sorenson, Macomb
John Stroger, Chicago
James C. Tyree, Chicago
Carmelo Vargas, Chicago
John Wilhelm, M.D., Chicago
John Hosteny, Ex-Officio, Chicago

COMMISSION STAFF

Scott Kimmel, Executive Director
Deborah McCarrel, AmeriCorps Program Manager
Michael Gaines, Program Officer
Lisa Hooker, Program Officer
Brenda Letcher, Community-Based Learn & Serve Officer
Scott Niermann, Training Coordinator/ Graduate Intern

– IMPORTANT CONTACTS AT IDHS –

Steven Guerra, Director,
 Division of Community Health and Prevention

Kim Fornero, Bureau Chief of the Bureau of Community Based and Primary Prevention



2006 Illinois Conference on Volunteer Administration

Oak Brook Marriott

Oak Brook, Illinois

The faces of volunteers and the places they volunteer are growing and ever changing. As new methods of volunteering and a new breed of volunteer emerge, volunteer management professionals must be prepared to accept and nurture a new way of thinking about volunteerism. We hope this conference will help you invigorate your volunteer program with the newest trends in volunteerism, as well as provide solutions to current problems. This is also a wonderful opportunity to network with peers and relax among friends.

The 2006 Illinois Conference on Volunteer Administration offers a variety of opportunities for experienced and new volunteer administrators. We are also pleased to host the Volunteer Management Training Series, a certification program designed for anyone working with volunteers who has been in the field for less than a year or with no formal training. This program is recognized by the Volunteer Centers of Illinois and the Illinois Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service. Professional Continuing Education Units will be offered to all conference attendees by Oakton Community College.

To request information or questions:
Call Sara Monroe at 312.353.8197
E-mail: icovaconference@hotmail.com
Visit our Web site at: www.icova.org

See you at the conference!
ICOVA Conference Committee

CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS

Day 1: May 11, 2006

- 1A News About Newsletters: Here Are Your Heroes!
- 1B Volunteer Management Jeopardy – Part I
- 1C Community Engagement: Energies, Icebreakers and Team Builders
- 1D Working with Youth and Elders in Intergenerational Volunteerism
- 1E Going Alone! Managing a Volunteer Program Solo
- 1F Creating Teachable Moments
- 2A Having Fun With Volunteers Using Improv
- 2B Collaboration: It Does A Community Good
- 2C Creating A Better Workplace
- 2D One-Page Strategic Planning
- 2E Reaching Out, Without Falling Over
- 2F Volunteer Management Jeopardy – Part II
- 3A Dealing with Difficult People – Why is No One Else as Nice as I Am?
- 3B The Importance of Emotional Contracts in Working with Volunteers
- 3C Revitalizing Your Volunteer Team
- 3D Recruit Volunteers Online: Learn How to Use chicagovolunteer.net/ 1-800-volunteer.org
- 3E How to Keep Your Cool: Planning for Effective Behavior Management
- * Evening Networking Event: Spend your time networking instead of in traffic – come to the fifth annual networking social sponsored by the Association of Volunteer Administrators of Metropolitan Chicago. Bring your business card to join in the raffle.

Day 2: May 12, 2006

- 4A Avoiding a Can of Worms: Basic Risk Management
- 4B Attract, Engage and Motivate Volunteers Through Laughter Quorums
- 4C Planning and Evaluation for Volunteer Programs
- 4D Optimizing Academic, Civic, Social and Emotional Learning in Community-Based Youth Service Programs
- 4E Balancing the See-Saw . . . the Importance of Being
- 4F The Value of Volunteers with Disabilities
- 5A The Relationship Between Volunteers and Fund Raising
- 5B Jumpstart: Structural Resources that Make Volunteer Engagement Work
- 5C Volunteer Screening: Where Are You in the Process?
- 5D "Toot Your Own Horn" Media Relations, Getting the Word Out
- 5E Go Bananas . . . Use SurveyMonkey or other Internet Survey Tools

"Volunteers . . . everyday heroes"

Keynote Speakers

At 21 years old, **Matt Wells** has inspired and motivated more than 40,000 people through his high-energy presentations on leadership, life's lessons, and his lifelong love of agriculture.

Dan Keding is internationally acclaimed for his telling of traditional world folktales, personal narratives of his boyhood in Chicago, ghost stories and dark tales, and superbly crafted original pieces.

Remembered as Chicago Bulls mascot Benny the Bull, **Dan LeMonnier** is a nationally known storyteller and songster, including a recording of songs from the Children's Chat Series at Westminster Presbyterian Church, where he is a youth leader, deacon, and Stephen minister.

ICOVA Conference Bookstore

New in 2006 . . . add to your learning experience both professionally and personally by stopping by the ICOVA Conference Bookstore. We have listened to your evaluations and comments and have partnered with Training Systems, Inc. to provide you an opportunity to stock up on resources benefiting volunteer managers. Our bookstore will have the latest books, CDs, tapes, and other resources for conference participants to purchase.

Many titles were recommended by our workshop presenters. The profits from the bookstore will help fund the 2007 ICOVA conference and help to sustain ICOVA.



ICOVA is a Partnership with:

- ABC AmeriCorps
- Adler Planetarium
- American Red Cross of Greater Chicago
- Association of Volunteer Administrators of Metropolitan Chicago
- Brookfield Zoo
- Center for Economic Progress
- Community Resource Network
- Corporation for National and Community Service
- Forest Preserve District of Will County
- Hospice of Northwest Illinois, Inc.
- Illinois Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service
- Illinois Department on Aging
- Illinois Retired and Senior Volunteer Program Association
- King-Bruwaert House
- Literacy Volunteers of Illinois
- Oakton Community College
- Probation and Court Services, DuPage County
- Salvation Army Heartland Division
- Volunteer Centers of Illinois
- VNA of Fox Valley

Alternative Spring Breakers

Join AmeriCorps/East St. Louis

Members of AmeriCorps/East St. Louis hosted students from three diverse university campuses for two weeks of service in early March.

The students, participants in “alternative spring break,” prepared for their visit by reading Jonathan Kozol’s *Savage Inequalities*. They found it very educational to compare the rhetoric with the reality of today’s East St. Louis.

The first group of students arrived from the University of South Dakota on March 3. They spent their first five days tutoring youth while pairing with East St. Louis AmeriCorps members for their in-school and after-school assignments. The most frequent comment heard was that children are the same whether they are in school in South Dakota or in East St. Louis.

Ten students from Slippery Rock University in Pennsylvania joined the service group on March 11. Slippery Rock University has sent students on alternative spring break in the East St. Louis area for the past five years. Additionally, a dozen students from the University of Illinois were in town for a weekend service project. The three groups of students spent that Saturday rehabilitating a women’s domestic violence center, serving hundreds of residents in a food pantry, and cleaning up and organizing a philanthropic computer repair center. The group had a pizza party for lunch, sharing stories of living and learning at their campuses.

During the second week of alternative spring break, students from Slippery Rock were paired with East St. Louis AmeriCorps members for classroom and after-school activities. A highlight of each day was supper prepared by our AmeriCorps members for our visitors from Pennsylvania. This social environment gave all involved the opportunity to talk in detail about their experiences in the schools each day.

We were blessed for the two weeks with unusually warm weather – much appreciated by students from the colder climates of South Dakota and Pennsylvania. We were also blessed with new friendships, solidified by e-mails in the weeks following the visits. South Dakota student Elly Kranz wrote, “The whole trip was a great success. The members were a joy to work with. It made us feel great to be part of a positive endeavor in the East St. Louis community.” **All participants expressed their strong belief that this experience had been life-altering; they left challenged, enlightened, and exhausted.**



William Oliver stabilizes a ladder for Larita Rice.



Members signing up for work at the Eagles Nest.



Are you on our mailing list? Need to update your address?

If you would like to receive this newsletter, please send us your:

Name _____

Agency _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Clip and mail to: ICVCS Newsletter, c/o Prevention First, Inc., 2800 Montvale Drive, Springfield, IL 62704 or fax it to (217) 793-7354.

Welcome

New Commission Staff

Deborah McCarrel has joined the Illinois Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service as the AmeriCorps Program Manager. Ms. McCarrel was born and raised in Springfield, Illinois. She earned her bachelor's degree in social work from the University of Illinois at Springfield in 2001 and a master's degree in social work from the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana in 2003. Ms. McCarrel completed her clinical training in social work in 2005 and is currently a licensed clinical social worker.



**Deborah
McCarrel**

Ms. McCarrel has more than 20 years of experience in state government, specializing in social services. She has held positions in the Illinois Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities and the Illinois Department of Public Aid. Before joining the AmeriCorps program, Ms. McCarrel spent the last 10 years with the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services developing, implementing, and managing social service programs for children and families.

Ms. McCarrel currently resides in Springfield with her two teenage children.

IN MEMORIAM

Frank D. Sorenson

Community Volunteer and ICVCS Commissioner

Frank D. Sorenson of Macomb, Illinois, 74, passed away on Tuesday, April 4, 2006, at McDonough District Hospital in Macomb. A dedicated community volunteer and professional, Mr. Sorenson was an active Commissioner on the Illinois Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service (ICVCS) for many years.

Mr. Sorenson was born in Nelson, Nebraska. He married Margery DeLamatre in Omaha, Nebraska, in 1954. She survives, along with two daughters, Kathy Sorenson of Macomb and Janet Latham (husband Ross) of Austin, Texas. Mr. Sorenson received his bachelor's degree, master's degree and doctorate in education from the University of Nebraska. He was assistant superintendent of schools in Ft. Madison, Iowa, and later was an educational administration professor at Western Illinois University from 1965 through 1992.

In addition to the many and valuable contributions he made while serving as a member of the ICVCS, Mr. Sorenson was a member of the Wesley United Methodist Church, Macomb Elks Lodge #1009, Sigma Chi Fraternity, Volunteer Now, Macomb Community Theatre, past president of the American Association of Retired Persons and the State University Annuitants Association. He was also a football and basketball official for more than 40 years.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Western Illinois University School of Education or to the American Heart Association. For more information and to sign a guest book, please go to www.dodsworthfh.com.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

April 21 – 23, 2006 2006 National & Global Youth Service Day

www.ysa.org/nysd

April 23 – 29, 2006 National Volunteer Week,
www.pointsoflight.org/programs/seasons/nvw

May 6, 2006 Join Hands Day, www.joinhandsday.org

May 11 – 12, 2006 Illinois Conference on Volunteer Administration (ICOVA), Oak Brook, www.icova.org

May 16, 2006 AmeriCorps Program Directors Close-Out Video Conference

May 25-26, 2006

*Tutor/Mentor Leadership
and Networking Conference*

Lieutenant Governor Pat Quinn, Honorary Chair

Northwestern University School of Law
375 East Chicago Avenue
Chicago, Illinois

For speaker list and registration information visit
www.tutormentorconference.bigstep.com,
call 312-492-9614, or E-mail tutormentor2@earthlink.net



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